

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 12 and 13 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A method for the extraction of hydrophobic constituents from an aqueous solution, comprising the steps of:

- a. contacting said solution with a porous, dimensionally stable granular or powdery material, of which the pores have a size of from 0.1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and contain an immobilized hydrophobic substance with affinity for the hydrophobic constituents to be extracted, which granular or powdery material has a particle size of from 0.1 to 10 mm, and is wetted more readily by the hydrophobic substance immobilized in the pores than by the aqueous solution to be treated, and
- b. regenerating the product of step a), essentially without the granular or powdery material being freed from the hydrophobic substance, by removal of the hydrophobic constituents.

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9. (Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the immobilized glycerol ester is soybean oil and/or castor oil.

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12. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous material was obtained by dissolving a polymer in a solvent with heating, cooling the solution to obtain a solidified mass, and the mechanical diminution of the solidified mass.

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13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the polymer is polypropylene and the solvent is soybean oil and/or castor oil.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein. In a telephone conference between the Examiner and Michael R. Brew on March 19, 2003, several amendments were suggested to claims